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Title: Need to increase the Minimum Support Price for coconut products to address the problems faced by coconut growers in the country.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Coconut is considered as one of the most essential item used by South Indian people in day-to-day life. The raw coconut is used for cooking and copra is used for preparing oil which is used internally. The coconut is cultivated in most parts of the Tamil Nadu. Many farmers life and their income is totally dependent upon the yielding of coconut. The demand for copra is increasing day by day. But many farmers are not willing to produce coconut/copra due to low price/non-remunerative price.

The minimum support price of de-husked coconut has been fixed at a non-remunerative price. This has led to farmers adopting value addition practices such as making copra. With the increase in the prices of fertilizers, manifold increase in the cost of labour and increase in the prices of cultivable land have led to increased financial losses to the agriculturist, particularly the coconut growers. The minimum support price should reflect the increased cost of production.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary action and come forward with suitable measure to increase the minimum support price for coconut dehusked/copra etc. so that the coconut farmers will not suffer.